



Volunteer Jane Collins takes great pride in her work at the ARC.

~ Article by volunteer Sarah Madden

Every day, an average of 1,000 people pass through the doors of Columbia’s Activity and Recreation Center (ARC). The ARC is a large facility with many amenities, but has maintenance challenges for the ARC staff. That’s where Jane Collins comes in.

Collins has volunteered at the ARC for the last three years, three times a week. She primarily dusts the railings and ledges on the upper level, which she does in three-hour shifts.

Joan Smith, her supervisor at the ARC, says Collins is a model volunteer. “She’s very dependable, knows her job, goes to it each day and religiously does it,” Smith said. “She treats it like it’s her job.”

Smith says that patrons notice and appreciate Collins’ “dedication and what she does.” Many have left compliments for the cleaning job she does so diligently. “I think it’s been a really good experience for all of us,” Smith said.

Collins has Down syndrome, and her mother says that she enjoys volunteering especially because it is important for her to stay busy. She also volunteers in the Columbia Catholic School lunchroom once a week. To learn about City volunteer programs, contact the Office of Volunteer Services at 874-7499 or visit www.GoColumbiaMo.com.

July holiday schedule

City offices will be closed Friday, July 3, in observance of Independence Day. However, residential curbside trash and recycling collection **will** run on its regular schedule on Friday, July 3. The city landfill will be open on Friday, but will be closed on Saturday.

The Household Hazardous Waste Facility, 1313 Lakeview Ave., **will** be open on Saturday, July 4, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Contact the Solid Waste Division at 874-6291 if you have questions. City buses will run on their regular schedule and routes on Friday, but will not run on Saturday. Parking meters will not be enforced on Friday or Saturday.

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CITYSOURCE



Your source for City news and information



New disinfectant to lower trihalomethanes

For more than three decades, Columbia has received its water from an aquifer filled with sand and gravel that is a natural filtration device. The water meets or exceeds all water standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency. The recent water tests have shown decreased levels of trihalomethanes but they are still hovering around the maximum contaminant level set by the Environmental Protection Agency. To ensure that the water stays well below this limit, the City of Columbia is changing the way the water is disinfected.

Trihalomethanes are a by-product of the disinfection process. They are formed when chlorine reacts with organic material in the water. Trihalomethanes can present health problems over a long period of time. In 2008, Columbia was given a violation by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources for exceeding the maximum contaminant level of 80 micrograms per liter. This level had been lowered by the Environmental Protection Agency in 2004 from 100 micrograms per liter.

The levels of trihalomethanes have fluctuated and seasonally the levels have gone up over the years. The water distribution system has grown substantially since the plant was built and it takes longer for the water to reach the furthest parts of the distribution system. This means there is more time for the chemical reaction between the organic material and the chlorine to form trihalomethanes. In order to keep the levels of trihalomethanes low, the city has approval from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to change the disinfection method.

Columbia Water & Light will start using ammonia as a secondary disinfectant in late July or August, depending on the equipment delivery schedule. This is a common technique used in many water systems for the last 90 years. First, chlorine is added to the water to prevent bacterial growth and prevent disease-causing illnesses like typhoid. Ammonia is then added, which forms chloramines. This slows the chemical reaction between the chlorine and the organic material which causes the formation of trihalomethanes. Research by the University of Missouri’s Water Resources Research Center shows that using chloramine as a secondary disinfectant may lower the level of trihalomethanes by up to 50 percent. The water will be safe to drink but, customers who are undergoing dialysis or have pet fish will need to remove the chloramines prior to use in dialysis equipment or aquariums.

The chloramine process was selected as a way to lower the trihalomethanes because it was the least expensive option that can be implemented this summer. Columbia Water & Light is conducting a study of the water treatment plant to see if other options are feasible. One method that has been suggested is to change the filtering system so more organic material could be removed. More information about the study will be made available when it is concluded.

A letter will be sent to water customers detailing the switch to the chloramine disinfection method before the system is converted.

There is a frequently asked questions page on the City’s Web site about the conversion to the chloramine disinfection system.

Also, the complete water testing results are available online.

[www.gocolumbia-mo.com/Water andLight](http://www.gocolumbia-mo.com/WaterandLight)



Did You Know?

Live streaming video of City Council meetings is now available? Dubbed “City Stream,” users can now watch Council meetings over the Internet and view archived meeting video within 24-hours after the meeting ends. Viewers can see the whole meeting or click an online meeting agenda to view video associated with a specific item. Supporting documents and reports for Council meetings are also available. For more information, visit the City Council meeting page at www.GoColumbiaMo.com.

Money in Your Pocket

\$100 to \$1,600 Rebate
High Efficiency Air Conditioner or Heat Pump

As much as half the energy used in your home can go to keeping it heated or cooled. If your cooling system is older than 10 years, you have frequent service problems and/or you see your utility bills going up, it is time to consider installing a new unit. Upgrading to a higher SEER rated air conditioning unit can substantially reduce your cooling costs.

Columbia Water and Light provides incentives for you to be energy efficient. Reduce your utility bills and help the environment. For the utility, lowering your demand means we purchase less wholesale energy power costs which helps your electric rates stay low. You might also be eligible for a federal tax credit.

Rebates are offered to Columbia Water & Light electric customers installing units with a SEER of 14 or higher. For a complete list of the program parameters, please contact us.

Columbia Water & Light
• GoColumbiaMo.com
• 874-7325





Get biking with GetAbout Columbia this summer

Want to make biking a part of your life? Need a little help getting started? GetAbout Columbia has classes that can help. Whether you're learning the basics or you're a regular commuter, there's something for everyone.

GetAbout Columbia Summer Class Schedule:

- **Bike Skills 101**
July 8, 6 to 9 p.m.
July 25, noon to 3 p.m.

This introductory three-hour class covers basic bike safety skills, standard road positioning techniques and the rules of the road. Classes are held at the GetAbout Columbia office, 101 N. Seventh St. For ages 14 and up. Cost is \$10.

- **Confident City Cycling**
July 7, July 14 & July 21, 6 to 9 p.m.
July 9, July 16 & July 23, 6 to 9 p.m.

This class includes something for everyone, even the most seasoned bicyclist. Taught by a League of American Bicyclists-certified instructor, students will learn bike safety checks, how to fix a flat tire, on-bike skills and crash avoidance techniques. Depending on the start date, this adult course (for ages 14 and up) is taught in one nine-hour session or three 3-hour sessions. Cost is \$20.

Get Registered:

To register for classes, call Columbia Parks and Recreation at (573) 874-7460 or visit the "Calendar" section at getaboutcolumbia.com and register online. For all other questions, call the GetAbout Columbia office at (573) 442-7189, ext. 28.

Be a leader in the community

The City is accepting applications for the following boards and commissions:

- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission**
- **Building Construction Codes Commission**
- **Board of Electrical Examiners**

Application deadline is noon, July 6. Applications and current vacancies are available online at www.GoColumbiaMo.com or at the City Clerk's Office.

Call 874-7208 for information and requirements.

Artists needed for 'Creative Kids' event

Visual, performing and literary artists who provide programming for young audiences are being sought by the City's Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA) for a Sept. 16 children's art event. Performers and storytellers are needed as are visual artists or arts organizations who can provide an art activity – honorariums for participation will be provided.

The Creative Kids event will take place as the September installment of Columbia Parks and Recreation's Family Fun Fest, and will be held Wednesday, Sept. 16, 6 to 8 p.m. at Flat Branch Park, located at Fourth and Cherry and Locust streets. Contact the OCA for more information: 874-6386, oca@GoColumbiaMo.com.



Parks and Recreation presents Family Fun Fests



Don't miss the next Family Fun Fest at Flat Branch Park! Fun Fests are held monthly from 6-8 p.m. every third Wednesday.

They are free and each features a different theme. Entertainment for the entire family includes music, special performances, art activities, bounce-houses, hands-on activities, balloon animals, face painting and guaranteed fun for all ages.

Bike valet will be available courtesy of the PedNet Coalition. Concessions will also be available. Family Fun Fests are

sponsored by Parks and Recreation, the Convention & Visitors Bureau, KPLA 101.5 Radio, KOMU 8 and Home & Lifestyle Magazine.

July 15: Around the World

You don't need a passport...come to Flat Branch Park to "travel the globe" experiencing music and dancing of many different cultures.

Coming Up

Aug. 19: It's A Circus! / Sept. 16: Creative Kids / Oct. 21: Percussion Phun

Youth Recreation Scholarships

Columbia Parks and Recreation offers youth financial assistance scholarships for Columbia residents through the Youth Enrichment Services (YES) program. The program is open to those between 3 and 17 who meet the income/household criteria established by the USDA's free and reduced lunch program.

Financial assistance is available for 50 or 75 percent depending on the household. Scholarships can be used for recreational classes and programs, outdoor pool passes and ARC memberships.

For more information, call 874-7460. Application forms can be obtained at www.GoColumbiaMo.com.

Protect your family from tick-borne diseases

This summer, protect yourself and your family from ticks, which are hosts for a variety of diseases including Ehrlichiosis and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF). While the risk of a serious tick-borne disease is low for most people, the Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services recommends:

- Use bug repellent with Deet.
- Wear light-colored clothing, which allows you to see ticks easier. Wear long-sleeve shirts whenever possible.
- Perform daily tick checks! Look around arms, ears, belly buttons, knees and in your hair.
- Check your kids and pets!

If you have been bitten by a tick and experience a sudden fever, headache, rash, achy muscles, nausea, or vomiting, please seek immediate medical attention.

Rain gardens protect the environment

Columbia Parks and Recreation has constructed three demonstration rain gardens at area parks to help educate the public regarding the environmental benefits.

The demonstration rain gardens along with educational signs can be found at: Flat Branch Park, 400 Locust Street Stephens Lake Park, 100 Old 63 North Louisville Park, 4910 Manhasset Drive

Rain gardens filter rain water as it drains off parking lots and other impervious surfaces. The EPA now considers storm-water pollution to be one of the most significant sources of contamination to our nation's water bodies and streams.

Thanks to funding from the Park Sales tax, these rain gardens will help keep Columbia's streams clean!



Online Utility Services, NO Waiting!

GoColumbiaMo.com is the fastest, most convenient way to start new service, terminate your service or transfer your service to a new location. Already a customer? You can check your account, pay your bill or even e-mail a question.

No access to a computer, no problem. You can still access your account, check your balance and due date and even pay your bill. Just call 874-7694. First-time users will need to have their social security number on file at Utility Customer Service, know their account number and set up a pin. Questions? Call customer service at 874-7380.

PARKS & RECREATION CALENDAR

Register online!
www.GoColumbiaMo.com

Call 874-7460 for more information.

July 4

ABC 17's Fire in the Sky, Memorial Stadium, Gates open at 6:30 p.m., free

July 4

Special swim hours at Albert-Oakland Family Aquatic Center, Douglass Family Aquatic Center and Pirates' Landing

July 7

Armed Forces Day Public Swim, public pools, \$1.50 with valid military ID

July 10

Teen Night at Albert-Oakland Family Aquatic Center, 8:30-10:30 p.m., \$1 per person

July 10

US Cellular Movies in the Park: The Tale of Desperaux, Flat Branch Park, 9 p.m., \$1 per person, 12 and under are free

July 11

Itty Bitty Beach Party, Albert-Oakland Family Aquatic Center, 9:30-11:30 a.m., \$3 per person

July 15

Family Fun Fests: It's a Circus!, Flat Branch Park, 6-8 p.m., free

July 17

Whiff and Giggle Couples Golf, L.A. Nickell, 5 p.m. shotgun start, \$40 per couple

July 17

OAK/50+ Monthly Dance, Stephens Lake Activity Center, 7-10 p.m., \$3

July 17-19

Show-Me State Games

July 18

Columbia Youth Triathlon, Wilson Beach and Tennis Club, 8 a.m. start, \$30

July 20-21

Coca-Cola Junior Championship, Lake of the Woods, L.A. Nickell Golf

July 24-26

Show-Me State Games

July 31

Teen Night at Albert-Oakland Family Aquatic Center, 8:30-10:30 p.m., \$1 per person

July 31

Show-Me State Games

July 31

OAK/50+ Fifth Friday Free Dance, Stephens Lake Activity Center, 7-10 p.m.

cut along line